

NARFE CHAPTER 1192

Board Meeting Minutes, March 20, 2013

CALL TO ORDER In the absence of President Don Binder, 1st Vice President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m., Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. Board members present: Lorie Bennett; Mary Binder; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Frank and Pam Griffin; and, Larry Williams. Absent: Don Binder; Bill Darke; Carl Gallion; and, Mable Rutt. The Board's first agenda item was a review of upcoming and possible future meeting programs, and member group activities.

PROGRAMS – Upcoming*

- 04/03/13 **Antique Appraisers Terry and Kathy Maurer** (confirmed; Johanna Caylor)
05/01/13 **State Rep. Larry Haler – update on legislative issues** (tentative; Don pursuing)
06/05/13 **Ice Age Floods in the Pacific Northwest – Bruce Bjornstad will provide information on the when, why and impact of these floods** (confirmed; Larry)
Note: Presentation confirmed after the Board meeting and in lieu of the Burlington Northern railroad crossing safety presentation, see below.)
09/04/13 **Open**
10/02/13 **Senior Centers/their programs, e.g., Meals on Wheels** (Nancy *still pursuing*)
11/06/13 **White Elephant Auction Fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund** (confirmed; Bill Darke/Pam Griffin)
12/04/13 **HAMMER Facility – Karen McGinnis, director, will provide an overview of the facility's mission and support** (confirmed; Lorie). Also consider having/doing something for the holidays.

PROGRAMS – Future Ideas (New; brought forward)*

- Burlington Northern railroad crossing safety presentation** (Moved from June 2013; Larry *still pursuing*; also, Operation Lifesaver, Inc., www.oli.org, focuses on rail education)
Washington Policy Center – topic TBD, e.g., Affordable Care Act and its impacts (Mary suggestion; Don pursuing)
Broetje Orchards (Lorie suggestion)
Lamb Weston (Lorie suggestion; Frank Griffin said he'd check with contacts he has about the possibility of a presentation)
Emergency Management Representative (moved from February 2012; Don will explore)
Fire and safety specialist
Seeing-eye dogs and/or police dogs and their roles (Dolores suggestion)
Recycling opportunities in the Tri-Cities region (Mary; Johanna suggested focusing on possible ways for the chapter to recycle/make money as the Bremerton chapter is doing. Mary said she'd again check with Bremerton on how their program works.)
Umatilla Chemical Depot – closure update (Mary Binder; final update in 2013/2014, depending on closure activities and the schedule)
Elder Law Attorney (Mary suggestion; Johanna pursuing options, e.g, attorney listed in Senior Pages) **[Note: Following the Board meeting, Johanna provided the following name as a possible speaker: Leslie Smith & Associates, Richland.]**
Hospital Patient Advocates/Social Workers – how does an individual and/or family member find out about available services (from a Board discussion)
Note: Board members opted to drop several program ideas that had been listed for several months to more than 2 years in lieu of other more viable/interesting options.

CHAPTER GROUP ACTIVITIES – PLANNED AND FUTURE IDEAS

- April 24 – **Columbia Gorge Stern Wheeler, Snake River Locks tour** (9 sign ups as of March 20; cost is \$75.81 with tax/gratuity; Lorie is confirming sign-up deadline)
June 15 – **Tri-City Dust Devils baseball game** (Senior Centers are the points of contact; no sign ups as of March 20)
May 26 – **Mariners game** (bus trip; City of Kennewick Parks & Recreation; **SOLD OUT**)
May 11 – **MCBONES Research Center Foundation, Coyote Canyon Mammoth Site** (9 sign ups as of March 20)
Maryhill Museum – bus trip/tour (Nancy suggestion; possibility for spring/summer 2014; this will take detailed coordination and commitment as transportation will be needed)

Pacific Northwest Regional Observatory (*Mary Binder suggestion*)

CREHST Museum tour (*Mary Binder suggestion*)

CREHST Museum Tombstone Tales tour (*Lorie pursuing with CREHST; date TBD*)

CREHST Museum group rate (*Bill will explore if there is a group rate*)

Note: Information about the tours/sign-up sheets will be at future Chapter meetings; information will also be in Chapter newsletters and included in e-mails when newsletters are released.

***Reflects changes from previous Board minutes.**

OFFICERS

President: *Lorie Bennett for Don Binder.* Per Don's request, the Board discussed WSFC Secretary Linda Sanders chapter/meeting ideas/suggestions in her February, March, April 2013 *Federation Reporter* article. Highlights from the discussion include:

- Continue with current schedule for Chapter meetings.
- Shorten business meetings, e.g., only have officers and chairmen report on key information/something not available in minutes or other reports.
- Consider having the speaker/program before the business meeting – if not for every meeting, then at least some meetings.
- Change the head table arrangement to have only the president, secretary, parliamentarian and possibly the program speaker.
- Add more tables with the sign-in table for: handouts, e.g., treasurer's report, minutes, newsletters; officers/chairmen who want to meet/talk with members about PAC or Alzheimer's contributions, help with member records, etc.
- Solicit input/feedback regarding meetings, programs, activities, etc., from members at meetings, in the newsletter, on the web site.

1st VP/Service Officer/Programs: *Lorie Bennett*

- Revised Chapter bylaws – the Board reviewed in detail the latest update Mary Binder had prepared based on comments/discussion at the January Board meeting. Mary will prepare another revision for the Board's review prior to the April Chapter meeting, incorporate those comments, and have a draft prepared to present at the April Chapter meeting, for the May/June newsletter and to post to the web site for members to review and comment.
- Pre-retirement seminars – initiative temporarily on hold.
- Chapter Group Activities – as noted above.

2nd VP/Webmaster: *Larry Williams.* Larry reminded the Board the Chapter now needs to pay Cline Communications for hosting the Chapter's web site. Cost: \$5/month; \$60/year. In the past, Cline has not charged the Chapter but written off the cost as a donation. The annual domain name renewal cost remains at \$12. Total web site cost: \$72/year.

Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/Public Relations: *Mary Binder.*

- Chapter Officer/Chair Roster – updated, March 6, 2013.
- Sunshine report – a card will go to the family of member John Straub who passed away recently. Johanna reported that she'd spoken to John's daughter who told Johanna that her mother, Ida, is seriously ill. A card will also be going to member Tom Davies on the passing of his father-in-law, Don Anderson. **Note: Cards mailed March 22.]**
- Newsletter May/June articles due April 5. The Board discussed options for reducing newsletter costs, including:
 - Not doing a summer newsletter;
 - Going to a quarterly vs. bi-monthly publication cycle, possibly for the summer/fall months.
 - Reviewing printing/mailing options with B&B Express Printing. Mary will discuss these with Terri Rawlins at B&B.
 - Reducing the mailing list so as to make first-class vs. non-profit bulk-rate mailing a viable, cost-saving option. Nancy and Johanna will be working on this.

- PR – Senior Life Show is Thursday, June 6. The Chapter/NARFE will be represented.
- PR – 2013 Outreach Plan. Mary said she's behind on this but will get the final version to the Board soon.

Treasurer: *Nancy Crosby.* Fundraising is needed to boost the Chapter's treasury. Johanna said she'd follow up with member Faye Vlieger and her suggestion – the Tri-Cities Fever's "50/50" program for non-profit organizations.

District VP: *Nancy.* The Board discussed/reviewed which Board members may/may not be attending the Region IX Leadership Training Workshop, May 31-June 1, Ellensburg. Although the training is for leaders/potential leaders, it is also targeted for all NARFE members, especially those newer members, as an opportunity to learn more about NARFE. Registration deadline is May 10.

COMMITTEES

Alzheimer's: *Bill Darke.* No report.

Caller Coordinator: *Pam Griffin.* Pam said she and Frank will be out of town for the June meeting; therefore, she'll need someone else to provide the meeting reservation information to the hotel. Nancy said either she or Carl could do that.

Hospitality: *Carl Gallion.* No report.

Legislative: *Don/Mary B. From Mary:*

- Recap of the 2013 Legislative Training Conference. Mary provided the Board a summary/some highlights from the March conference:
 - Attendees had, overall, positive comments on the change in hotel from previous conferences, especially the ability for all meetings to be on one floor.
 - From speakers' presentations, more than before, the disconnect between the Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill was clearly outlined.
 - As always, the presentations, breakout sessions, discussions, questions and answers, and time to meet/greet/talk to other members from around the country was most beneficial.
 - Time on Capitol Hill was also well spent. All Washington State congressional offices had at least one Washington NARFE member visit them. Mary said their time with Congressman Doc Hasting's chief of staff and with Congressman Denny Heck and members of his staff was especially beneficial – a great opportunity for face-to-face discussions.
- After the conference, Mary reported that she and Don visited NARFE headquarters. Time there included meeting with *narfe* magazine editor Maggie Carter; Jessica Klemen, legislative director and members of her staff; and Bridget Boal, NARFE's new membership development coordinator. Mary said the opportunity to interface and discuss issues with the staff was very beneficial.
- Sequestration – from their time on Capitol Hill and at the Legislative Conference, elected officials/their staffs and NARFE are looking for stories/input regarding the impacts of sequestration. The Board discussed possible ways to get such information from Chapter members, e.g., having 3x5 cards on the tables at Chapter meetings and asking members to provide impact information. The information could then be compiled and forwarded to NARFE, our respective elected officials, etc.
- NARFE templates for letters to the editor – Mary said NARFE is preparing templates that we could use for newspapers such as the *Tri-City Herald*.

Membership: *Johanna Caylor.*

- Mary highlighted her discussion with Bridget Boal when she was at NARFE headquarters after the Legislative Conference. Bridget has been with NARFE for about a year and heads membership development. She has been overseeing updating procedures, streamlining processes, etc. There has been progress, but still work to do.
- Reminder notices – Nancy said she recently sent 12 membership renewal reminder cards but doesn't yet know if they've resulted in renewals.

- Johanna said she learned the NARFE M-114, *Membership Roster – Semi-Annual*, report, is run the 2nd Saturday in the month following the end of the reporting cycle. This information helps in understanding delays with names being posted/corrections.
- Obtaining e-mail addresses – The Board discussed ways to possibly get this information from members at Chapter meetings, e.g., adding a space for e-mail addresses on the sign-in sheet (Nancy will modify the sheet); having a laptop available and help members make the change to their NARFE records, along with any other needed updates.

NARFE PAC: *Frank Griffin*. Frank said he now has the new 2013/2014 PAC pins, and the new NARFE caps, which replace the umbrellas in the previous congressional cycle, for members contributing at least \$100. He'll have those available at Chapter meetings.

Parliamentarian: *Mable Rutt*. No report.

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Thursday, April 25, 10:30 a.m., Tri-City Country Club.

MEETING ADJOURNED – 4 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary